

February 24, 2016

Letter in opposition to HB 5232

I believe in historic districts, and I support their use to preserve and protect our downtown and near-downtown neighborhoods. People who choose to live in historic districts do so for a variety of reasons. I, for one, sought proximity to the variety of culture and entertainment within a short walk from my front door. I have not been disappointed. Most important, my neighborhood is historically designated, meaning it comes under the oversight of our local historic district commission, governed by PA 169.

Historic district designation helps to stabilize neighborhoods by introducing the predictability of oversight and the use of Federal guidelines for appropriate change. Moving into a pre-existing historic district is done with the knowledge that this process will be in place to support residents' goal of maintaining the value of their own property and of those around them. If I were to lose this protection, I fear that my property would decrease in value and that I would lose the comfort and predictability of my surrounding neighborhood.

Knowledge of historic preservation principles is not equal among all people, but comes after a period of study and experience, just like with any other profession or trade. I ask that you respect our position, as you would that of lawyers or business owners, and prevent this unfortunate and harmful bill from being enacted.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ilene R. Tyler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ilene' being more prominent and the last name 'Tyler' following in a similar style.

Ilene R. Tyler, FAIA, FAPT, LEED AP

Co-author of *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, 2nd edition, W. W. Norton & Company, 2009.